

4.1 Purpose of the Spectrophotometer Tests

It is possible that the spectral characteristics of a spectrophotometer may change with time in a number of ways so that the original calibration of the instrument will not apply. In order to detect such changes and make allowances for them, either by applying corrections to observational data or by making adjustments to the instrument, it is necessary periodically to perform two types of instrument tests--a mercury lamp test and a standard lamp test.

The scheme for the maintenance tests for Dobson instruments is for approximately monthly tests, supplemented with additional tests twice year, and a Quadrennial intercomparison with a designated national, regional, secondary or primary standard.

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